The condition of the cart-men at Adur was particularly worthy of sympathy. They had to pay a very heavy toll at one or other of the local toll-gates on every day of the year. Again, tolls while a source of inconvenience to the public did not result in much benefit to Government. What profit accrued from the collection of tolls really went into the pockets of the contractors. The people who suffered most from tolls were the owners of motor vehicles, particularly the eight-seater cars and buses plying between the various places. These motor vehicles in addition to being the chief means of transport in the country furnished employment to several men. The levy of tolls at every corner of the road was a great hindrance to the development of motor traffic in the country. If instead of these tolls a licence fee was levied in accordance with the size and weight of the vehicles, Government could get lakhs of rupees out of this head alone. Even worse than tolls were the market dues, which should also be abolished. These were a burden on the poor people who earned their livelihood by selling little things in the markets.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Geevarghese Mutalali, I see from the proceedings that you represent the Kunnathur taluk. But from your speech I might have imagined that you represent the motor bus industry in Travancore. However, I shall give you a few particulars to help you to realise the incidence of tolls in Travancore. I am referring to Government tolls. In regard to municipal toll gates you have already representatives on the municipal councils. In other words, the municipalities are the people and if they feel the weight of municipal tolls, it is up to them through their representatives on the municipal council to get the tolls abolished.

In regard to Government toll-gates, there are about 15 toll-gates in the State and they cover an area of 4,500 miles of roads—in other words, one toll-gate to every 300 miles. I do not think that is a terrible hardship. Then, looking at it in another way, roughly speaking, the present population of Travancore is in the neighbourhood of 45 lakhs of people. 45 lakhs of people pay 3 lakhs of rupees a year by way of toll. That is to say, 45 people pay Rs. 3 or 15 people pay one rupee in the year. Each head of population thus pays one anna a year towards the convenience and the comfort of numerous roads in the State. I do not think that is too terrible a hardship to bear.

3. Certain changes in the administration of the Land Revenue Department.

MR. KANAKKU MATHEVAN PILLAI PERUMAL PILLAI (*Member, Agastisvaram taluk*) said that the system of land revenue collections in the State was open to much criticism. There were no accounts in any of the pakuthies to show correctly the various items of revenue due from the pakuthies or the persons from whom the revenue was due. The old Settlement Registers were never brought up to date and *pokkuvaravu* was not effected regularly. These were only a few defects; there were many others. The member suggested the following means for curing these defects:—

(*a*) Persons holding better examination qualifications should be appointed in the pakuthi cutcherries and they should be given comparatively better pay. Arrangements should also be made for the regular disbursement of the pay every month.

(*b*) Arrangements should be made for the disposal of *pokkuvaravu* cases arising every year before the close of the year.

(*c*) The system of keeping duplicates of tax receipts should be introduced in the Revenue Department.

(*d*) Copies of daily accounts of tax collections should be regularly forwarded to the taluk office.

(*e*) Due notice should be sent to pattadars residing in one pakuthy of the tax due from them in other pakuthies.

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(*f*) Pakuthi cutcherries should be housed in Sirkar buildings in central places in each pakuthi; where Government buildings were not available in such places new buildings should be put up at places accessible to all people.

The member next referred to the grant of loans under the Agricultural Loans Regulation and made the following suggestions for revising the present system of issuing the loans.

(*a*) The amount of the loans payable on personal security should be raised from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500.

(*b*) A committee should be appointed in each taluk consisting of the Tahsildar, Agricultural Inspector, Inspector of Co operative Societies, member of the Legislative Council, and member of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, to decide questions connected with the issue of loans.

Similarly in the matter of agricultural demonstration farms, the work turned out was very poor for want of a sufficient number of demonstrators. More fruitful results could be achieved in this direction if two or three acres of land in each pakuthi were set apart for demonstration and a man acquainted with local conditions was appointed as demonstrator in charge of the work on this area. The demonstrator should be under the control of an Inspector. The demonstration could be conducted either through the Agricultural Department or through the Co-operative Department. In regard to the choice of lands for the purpose of demonstration, special attention should be paid to the needs of Nanjinad.

Another matter to which the member made reference was the cultivation of manure trees on poramboke lands. In regard to this he suggested that manure trees standing on poramboke lands should be leased out only to the owners of the neighbouring lands.

The member next referred to a local need of the Agasteeswaram taluk, *viz.*, the redistribution of the Marungur and Terur pakuthies. As regards this, he suggested that survey Nos. 1 to 703 might be transferred from the Marungur to the Terur pakuthi and a few survey numbers from the Terur pakuthi be transferred in return to the Marungur pakuthi.

The member also dealt in this connection with the working of village panchayat courts in general and suggested that these courts should be established in villages instead of in towns as at present.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kanakku Mathevan Pillai Perumal Pillai, may I request you to send your representation to the Secretary. I see it is written out and the points you have raised will be examined. The large questions you have raised are not such as could be disposed of at a moment's notice.

4. Commutation of tax on Sripandaravaka, Kandukrishi tanatu and Jenmom lands into money.

MR. KANAKKU NARAYANA PILLAI GOVINDA PILLAI (*Member, Neyyattinkara taluk, Group II*) pointed out how the assessment of taxes in kind on Sripandaravaka, Kandukrishi tanatu and Jenmom lands formed an anomalous exception to the general system of assessment followed by the Government. While the tenants of the Pandarapattam and the Kandukrishi pattam lands could pay tax in money, the tentants of the Sripandaravaka, Kandukrishi tanatu and Jenmom lands had to pay the same in kind. This was like fencing a field on three sides and leaving the fourth side open. Besides being an anomaly, the system of payments in kind was a source of great hardship to the tenants. It was often long after the harvesting season that they were asked to pay the tax and they had then to purchase paddy at exhorbitantly high prices, sometimes even rising to the fabulous rate of 9½ and 10 fanams per para. Nor was the collection of the tax in paddy in any way convenient to the Government. The member therefore urged for the commutation into money of the tax on the three kinds of lands referred to *viz.*, Sripandaravaka, Kandukrishi tanatu and Jenmom lands.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Govinda Pillai, I do not think you were a member of this Assembly last year. But if you had been, you will know that the points you have raised to-day were taken up and final reply given last year. I shall order

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